



# Mansfield Tomorrow

## OUR PLAN ► OUR FUTURE

**Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**  
**6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**Mansfield Town Hall-Council Chambers**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**Advisory Group Members Present:** Sara Anderson, Human Services Advisory Committee; Jay Rueckl, Mansfield Board of Ed; John McGuire, Economic Development Commission; Quentin Kessel, Conservation Commission; George Rawitscher, Resident; Winky Gordon, Resident; Tom Callahan, UConn; Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance; Michael Daniels, UConn Student Representative; Jeff Polhemus, Eastern Highlands Health District; Matthew Emery, Storrs Congregational Church; James Morrow, Open Space Preservation Committee. **Project Staff Present:** Larissa Brown, Goody Clancy; Linda Painter, Mansfield Director of Planning and Development; Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield Tomorrow Project Manager; **Guests Present:** Betty Wassmundt and Mirium Kurland, Eva Csejtey, Alyssa Stearns, Joyce Rawitscher, Jeffrey Keel

1. **The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30pm** and Jennifer Kaufman welcomed the attendees
2. **The meeting minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup>** were accepted by the group
3. **Members reviewed Mansfield Today handout**, including Town-University contact information. Quentin saw some corrections that were needed in the mapping. We will get the updated info for inclusion in the report. Meg suggested adding some stats from previous years to get a historical perspective. The University-Town Relations section needs to be fleshed out as well. Larissa reminded people that this is a DRAFT and that she needed the Advisory Group to really look through the information and make suggestions/edits.
4. **Members reviewed the draft POCD outline.** Several members indicated the need to address climate change. Members suggested that there should be a section on resiliency. While the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan is not a specific climate action plan, climate change and resiliency will be woven throughout the plan. The plan will include recommendations of building standards, limiting development in flood areas, advocating for energy conservation, green infrastructure and more sustainable storm water management, reduction of sprawl, regional cooperation, local food production and agricultural viability, an economic development strategy to promote local businesses, efficient

transportation, etc. George Rawitscher reminded all present at the meeting of the Mansfield Tomorrow Advisory Group meeting of the importance to include in the plans being developed practical measures that will protect the residents of Mansfield from detrimental effects due to climate change 20 to 30 years hence. He gave as an example the town of Keene, NH. Their planning committee analyzed the major vulnerabilities of their town and prioritized various concrete measures that will protect their future inhabitants from floods, loss of electrical power, etc.

Larissa pointed out that the plan will be implemented by revised zoning and subdivision regulations as well as town policies and budget requests that reflect the goals of the plan. Quentin asked that there be a more comprehensive section on water and Kristen Schwab recommended that there be more integration of the built environment with the natural environment. Larissa stated that what she handed out was an outline/list of items that will be in the plan but the layout of the plan will be focused on systems so that items are not in "siloes". Sustainability and design will be themes woven throughout the plan.

5. **Draft Mansfield Tomorrow vision for 2035-** The group broke up into groups to review the vision statement and were asked to define what they thought rural was. The smaller groups reported out. Most groups defined rural New England as being different than other rural parts of the country. There was a theme that rural consisted of small villages connected by natural areas, and working farms and forests. Common themes for the vision statement were inclusion of resiliency, sustainability, preservation of rural character, revitalize/concentrate development in four corners, and other developed areas.
6. **New issues or opportunities for consideration in the planning process** were articulated in the two agenda items above.
7. **Public Outreach-** Jennifer encouraged members of the committee to spread the word about the project and go onto the website. We will be launching a Textizen campaign. Jennifer encouraged people to respond to the questions that will be posted around town.
8. **Public Comment-** Members of the public also broke up into a group and they gave comments on the vision statement. Joyce Rawitcher expressed that climate change is an urgent issue that should be addressed as part of a plan for Mansfield's future.
9. **Next Steps/Adjourn-** The next Advisory Group will be on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Buchanan Center Auditorium. The Mansfield Tomorrow Open House will be held on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, from 4 -9 pm also at the Buchanan Center Auditorium. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.